(a) whether Government have formed an agency known as 'Petronet';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agency will start LNG terminal in Gujarat and Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the approval of the Government, a Joint Venture Company namely Petronet LNG Ltd. has been formed with equity participation of upto 50% by GAIL, LOCL, ONGC and BPCL while the balance is to be offered to financial institutions, private parties etc. Petronet LNG Ltd. will establish LNG Terminals at Dahet (Gujarat) of 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity and at Cochin (Kerala) of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity.

Appointment of Member of Board of Directors

2735. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether director level officers have been appointed as Members of the Board of Directors in the National Oil Giants; and

(b) whether it has normally been the practice to have only Joint Secretary level officers on the Board of large Public Sector Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b): Director level officers have been appointed as members on the Board of Directors in the oil PSUs in addition to the Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries, having regard to the need for restricting the number of Directorships evenly in the Ministry and taking into account the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises dated 16th March, 1992.

Production of crude Oil and Gas

2736. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of crude oil and gas in the country during this year;

(b) whether there is any marginal increase/decrease over that of last year;

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production of crude oil gas in the country;

(d) whether any new seismic studies have been undertaken to find new oil/gas locations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production of crude oil and gas during the period April-October in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 was as under:

	Crude oil (MMT)	Natural Gas (MCM)
1997-98 (April-Oct.)	19.78	14830
1998-99 (April-Oct.)	19.05	15620

(c) Steps being taken to increase the production of crude oil and Natural gas are:—

(i) 3 D seismic survey for better understanding of the oil fields especially to identify the undrained/by passed oil

(ii) Rectificatory measures for Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields.